

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 L-03

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /035 W
----- 102388

R 300801Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5279

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, IR

SUBJECT: TANK RETROFIT PROGRAM

1. DURING MEETING WITH EMBOFF AND DEFENSE REP APRIL 29, GENERAL ZIA-UL-HUQ, ARMY COS, SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORT OF DIFFICULTY WITH TANK RETROFIT PROGRAM IN IRAN. ZIA SAID THAT UNDER RETROFIT PROGRAM, GOI HAD AGREED TO INSTALL NEW ENGINES IN APPROXIMATELY 110 M-47S AND ALSO AGREED IF GUNS ON M-47S HAD LESS THAN ONE QUARTER LIFE LEFT TO REPLACE THEM AS WELL.

2. PAK EMBASSY TEHRAN HAS INFORMED ZIA THAT GOI NOW SAYS IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REPLACE ANY M-47 GUNS. THE GOI IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES OBTAINING REPLACEMENT PARTS AND IN ORDER TO KEEP RETROFIT LINE MOVING ONLY ENGINES WOULD BE REPLACED. ZIA SAID THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO PAK ARMY. NEW ENGINES COULD HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN PAKISTAN AND MAIN PURPOSE OF SENDING TANKS TO IRAN WAS FOR UPGUNNING. HE ASKED IF WE COULD HELP.

3. EMBOFF NOTED RETROFIT PROGRAM WAS GOI-GOP AGREEMENT WITH NO DIRECT USG INVOLVEMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, ANY DIFFICULTIES IN THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. WE DID AGREE, HOWEVER, TO ASK OUR EMBASSY IN TEHRAN IF IT HAD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PROBLEM WHICH WE COULD
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PASS TO PAK ARMY. ZIA UNDERSTOOD WE COULD NOT

INTERVENE ON GOP'S BEHALF, BUT HOPED WE COULD SUPPLY
ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM EMBASSY TEHRAN
ANY BACKGROUND ON PROBLEM OF M-47 RETROFIT PROGRAM
WHICH WE COULD PASS TO GENERAL ZIA.
AMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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